

Application No. 09/888,600
Reply to Office Action of 09/888,600

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A structure for fixing an optical element comprising:
a base member having an attaching surface;
an optical element which is mounted on said base member and has side surfaces
around a surface through which light passes; and

intermediate holding members for fixing said optical element to said base member,
~~wherein~~ each of said intermediate holding members ~~includes~~ including a first attaching
surface which contacts with each of said side surfaces of said optical element and a second
attaching surface mounted on said attaching surface of said base member and extending from
said first attaching surface in a different angle[[,]]; and

contact mechanisms respectively provided between the first attaching surfaces of the
intermediate holding members and the side surfaces of the optical element for firmly
maintaining the contact of the first attaching surfaces and the side surfaces,

wherein said first attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding members and said
side surfaces of said optical element, and said second attaching surfaces of said intermediate
holding members and said attaching surface of said base member are fixed through the
contact mechanisms by an adhesive agent.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The structure according to claim 18, further
comprising a photoelectric transforming member fixed on said base member in a
predetermined position with respect to said optical element.

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Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The structure according to claim 18, wherein said adhesive agent is a light hardening adhesive agent and said intermediate holding members are transparent for at least light which hardens said light hardening adhesive agent.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The structure according to claim 18, wherein said first and second attaching surfaces of said intermediate holding members are perpendicular with respect to each other.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The structure according to claim 21, wherein said intermediate holding members have ribs disposed between surfaces of the intermediate holding members that are opposite to the first and second attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding members.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The structure according to claim 18, wherein said ~~optical element has at~~ contact mechanisms comprise opposite side surfaces surface flat portions of the optical element, each of which faces to each of the first attaching surfaces of said intermediate holding members.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The structure according to claim 23, wherein each of said flat portions is parallel to an optical axis of said optical element.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The structure according to claim 23, wherein said flat portions are formed by grinding the opposite side surfaces of said optical element.

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Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The structure according to claim 18, further ~~comprising wherein the contact mechanisms comprise~~ spacing members each having a side contacting surface which is aligned with each of the side surfaces of said optical element, and having an aligning surface which is aligned with each of the first attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding members, said side contacting surface of each of the spacing members facing to the side surface of each of said side surfaces of said optical element, and said aligning surface of each of said spacing members facing to each of the first attaching surfaces of said intermediate holding members.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The structure according to claim 23, further comprising a photoelectric transforming member fixed on said base member in a predetermined position with respect to said optical element,

wherein the first attaching surfaces are arranged in both sides of a best effective region of said optical element for said transforming member.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A unit for inputting image data in which a solid state image forming device is disposed at a position where an image is focused by an image focusing lens comprising:

a base member having an attaching surface;

a lens which is mounted on said base member and has side surfaces around a surface through which light passes; and

intermediate holding members for fixing said optical element to said base member, wherein each of said intermediate holding members ~~includes~~ including a first attaching surface which contacts with each of said side surfaces of said optical element and a second

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attaching surface mounted on said attaching surface of said base member and extending from said first attaching surface in a different angle[,,]; and

contact mechanisms respectively provided between the first attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding members and the side surfaces of the optical element for firmly maintaining the contact of the first attaching surfaces and the side surfaces.

wherein said first attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding members and said side surfaces of said optical element, and said second attaching surfaces of said intermediate holding members and said attaching surface of said base member are fixed through said contact mechanisms by an adhesive agent.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The unit according to claim 28, further comprising a cover between said image focusing lens and said solid state image forming device.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The unit according to claim 28, wherein said image focusing lens is composed of a plurality of lenses.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): An image data input apparatus utilizing said image data input unit according to claim 18.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): An image data input apparatus utilizing said image data input unit according to claim 28.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): An image data input apparatus utilizing said image data input unit according to claim 29.

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Claim 34 (New): The structure according to claim 28, wherein said contact mechanisms comprise opposite side surface flat portions of the optical element, each of which faces to each of the first attaching surfaces of said intermediate holding members.

Claim 35 (New): The structure according to claim 28, wherein the contact mechanisms comprise spacing members each having a side contacting surface which is aligned with each of the side surfaces of said optical element, and having an aligning surface which is aligned with each of the first attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding members, said side contacting surface of each of the spacing members facing to the side surface of each of said side surfaces of said optical element, and said aligning surface of each of said spacing members facing to each of the first attaching surfaces of said intermediate holding members.